

Penis Disorders Introduction

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Penis disorders

Talking openly about the penis and male reproductive system is a very personal matter and can sometimes be embarrassing. We'll outline the basic medical problems associated with the penis so that you can understand when it's necessary to take action. We encourage you to seek medical help for penis disorders when needed.

Let's take a look at the anatomical structure of the penis first to understand what might be affected and where. The penis has three parts: the root, the shaft and the glans. The root of the penis attaches to the wall of the abdomen. The shaft of the penis makes up the length of the body; and the glans penis, is the cone-shaped end (head). The opening of the urethra, the tube that transports semen and urine, is at the tip of the glans penis.

The symptoms of a penile disorder are often easy to spot, because they frequently cause immediate discomfort or noticeable effects. Minor abnormalities of the penis during erection are common. However, anytime the following symptoms interfere with sexual activity or urination, they should be evaluated by a urologist. These signs and symptoms could indicate other, more serious problems with the penis:

- General pain or painful erections
- A persistent erection that lasts from several hours to a few days
- Pain during sex
- A bent or curved erect penis
- A lump on the upper or lower side of the penis
- Inflammation of the skin on the penis head
- Inflammation of the mucosa on the foreskin
- Foul smell from the penis
- Swollen glans or foreskin
- Pain during foreskin retraction
- Abnormal discharge
- Bleeding
- Growths or sores on the penis
- The inability to get an erection

It's important to remember that problems with the penis can not only cause pain, but they can affect a man's sexual function and fertility. That's why it's important to seek medical help early, so that you and your doctor can diagnose and treat potential problems before they happen. If you don't see your doctor, these problems will go untreated. Keep reading about [how to diagnose a penis disorder](#) to learn more.

Talking about the penis and men's sexual health in general can seem overwhelming at times. But don't feel embarrassed about seeking help. Penis disorders are medical problems, and your doctor sees and treats medical problems every day. Here are a few tips to [get started](#) on your way to diagnosis:

1. If you don't feel comfortable talking with your doctor about penis conditions, ask for a referral to a urologist-a doctor who specializes in sexual and urologic problems.
2. Ask your partner to join you at your doctor's appointment. Many doctors say that penis disorders are easier to treat when both partners are involved.
3. Remind yourself of why you need to seek help: your health and your quality of life are at stake.

The range of possible diagnoses for penis disorders includes relatively harmless causes like yeast infection, to more serious issues such as penile cancer. Possible causes for penis disorders include:

- Balanitis - inflammation of the glans
- Balanoposthitis - inflammation of the foreskin
- Erectile dysfunction
- Penile cancer
- Peyronie's disease - the penis bends during an erection
- Priapism - a [painful erection](#) that does not go away

To identify possible causes for the symptoms you are experiencing, your doctor will first request your medical history and then complete a physical exam. As part of the exam, the doctor will examine your penis, testicles, scrotum and groin, take your blood pressure, and check your reflexes. A blood sample may be taken to test for diabetes, cholesterol level, and other conditions associated with penile disorders.

It's helpful to bring a list of all the medications you take to keep your doctor informed. Also, be sure to know when the symptoms first appeared and how long you've experienced them. Tell your doctor about any surgery you've had and outline your alcohol use, smoking, and exercise frequency. Your doctor or urologist might ask:

- What are your sexual habits?
- Is there drainage from the penis?
- Do you experience painful urination?
- Do you experience painful sexual intercourse?

Regardless of the cause of any abnormality, treatment is available. Discuss your concerns with your doctor or urologist. And keep reading to learn about [how to treat penis disorders](#).

Read more: [Penis Disorders](#)

Diagnosis http://ehealthforum.com/health/penis_disorders_diagnosis-e30.html#ixzz2JSliGrZb

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Penis disorders treatment

Treatment for any type of penile disorder depends upon the underlying cause. Pain can be treated once its cause has been identified. This is why it's so important to see a doctor or urologist for a correct diagnosis. We'll discuss some of the major causes and treatments of penile disorders. This is by no means and exhaustive list and the information we present is not meant to take the place of professional medical consultation. Please consult a certified medical doctor for a proper medical evaluation for any disorders of the penis.

Erectile dysfunction - Your doctor can offer several new treatments [for erectile dysfunction](#). For many men, the answer is as simple as taking a pill. Getting more exercise, losing weight or stopping smoking may also help. Other possible treatments for ED include counselling, a penile implant, injections or a vacuum device.

Infections and skin reactions - Antibiotics, antiviral medications, or other antimicrobials may be prescribed for infections. In rare cases circumcision is advised for chronic infection under the foreskin. Proper cleaning of the penis can help prevent future bouts of infection. Please be advised to avoid strong soaps or chemicals, especially those known to cause a skin reaction.

Penile cancer - The most common treatment for penile cancer is surgery to remove cancerous cells. Radiation and chemotherapy are other [treatment options](#).

Peyronie's Disease - The hard lump that is at the center of Peyronie's disease often shrinks or disappears on its own without treatment. Most doctors suggest waiting one to two years or longer before attempting to correct it with surgery, which is another treatment option.

Priapism - To treat priapism, a urinary catheter may be inserted to relieve immediate urine retention. The goal of treatment is to relieve the erection and preserve penile function. Medications or surgical procedures will be discussed with you if they are necessary. It is important that you treat any underlying

medical condition or substance abuse problem in order to prevent priapism in the future.

Your doctor can offer a number of treatments for penile disorders, based on the cause of your symptoms. Be sure to visit your doctor or urologist early in order to prevent problems later.

Read more: [Penis Disorders Treatment](#) http://ehealthforum.com/health/penis_disorders_treatment-e31.html#ixzz2JSJGGZr8

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This document was last reviewed by Dr. Goce Aleksovski , MD on 01/22/2009.

This information is not intended to replace the medical advice of your doctor or health care provider. Please consult your health care provider for advice about a specific medical condition.

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